Power units exempted from purview of MRTP Act

2237. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether power units have been exempted from the purview of the MRTP Act;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this exemption facility would also be applicable to other sectors;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are the other major sectors still under the purview of MRTP Act?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power generation has been exempted under section 22A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 as it is considered to be an activity of high national piority required large investments, high technology and there is a general shortage of power in the country.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has been given powers under section 22A of the MRTP Act to grant exemption from the requirement of obtaining approval in terms of section 21 and 22 of the Act under certain specified circumstances. Apart from "Power generation" which has been recently exempted *vide* Notification No. 625(E) date 8-8-1990, the Central Government had earlier exempted 83 specific categories of industries under section 22A of the MRTP Act, 1969.

Upgrading of Domestic airports in the country

2238. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to upgrade domestic airports in the country;

(b) if so, which are the airports proposed to be upgraded and what is the criteria for their upgradation;

(c) whether any committee in this reagrd was appointed, if so, when and what were its terms of reference and what are the names of its members;

(d) whether any report has since been submitted by the Committee; and

(e) if so, what decision has since been taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Upgradation of domestic airports is a continuing process and is taken up, as and when necessary depending upon the requirements projected by regulatory authorities, operating airlines, availability of resources, land, etc.

(c) The Government did not appoint any Committee to go into the question of upgrading domestic airports.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Spread of AIDS

2239. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "A blot on AIDS surveillance" which appeared in the Times of India" of the 18th July, 1990;